

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

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1-13. (*Cancelled*)

14. (*New*) An exhaust pipe comprising a thin metal tube having a wall thickness of less than 1 mm, which tube comprises, over at least a portion of its length, a peripheral sheath formed from a thermally expandable intumescent material.

15. (*New*) An exhaust pipe according to claim **14**, wherein the thermally expandable peripheral sheath has a thickness of from 0.5 mm to 20 mm, and preferably from 2 mm to 15 mm.

16. (*New*) An exhaust pipe according to claim **14**, wherein the thermally expandable material comprises vermiculite.

17. (*New*) An exhaust pipe according to claim **16**, wherein the thermally expandable material is composed of refractory ceramic fibres, vermiculite, and an organic binder.

18. (*New*) An exhaust pipe according to claim **14**, wherein at the normal operating temperature of the exhaust pipe, the thermally expandable peripheral sheath has a density substantially equal to 1.

19. (New) An exhaust pipe according to claim **14**, further comprising a thermally insulating mat interposed between the thin tube and the thermally expandable peripheral sheath.

20. (New) An exhaust pipe according to claim **19**, wherein the thermally insulating mat comprises long polycrystalline ceramic fibres.

21. (New) An exhaust pipe according to claim **19**, wherein the thickness of the thermally expandable peripheral sheath is greater than 70% of the cumulative thicknesses of the thermally insulating sheath and the thermally expandable peripheral sheath.

22. (New) An exhaust pipe according to claim **14**, further comprising an external casing for holding the thermally expandable peripheral sheath.

23. (New) An exhaust pipe according to claim **22**, wherein the thermally expandable peripheral sheath comprises two unconnected sleeves, said two unconnected sleeves being surrounded by the same external peripheral casing extending from the one to the other along the thin tube, a space filled with air thus being delimited, between the two unconnected sleeves of peripheral sheath, by the thin tube and the casing.

24. (New) A manifold comprising at least two exhaust pipes according to claim **14**, said two exhaust pipes converging to form a single pipe.

25. (New) A power train comprising a heat engine, an exhaust line comprising at least one catalytic depollution device, wherein the portion of the exhaust line between the engine and the catalytic purification device comprises at least one exhaust pipe according to claim **14**.

26. (New) A power train comprising a heat engine and an exhaust line comprising at least one catalytic depollution device, wherein the portion of the exhaust line between the engine and the catalytic purification device includes at least one manifold according to claim **24**.